

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**At page 14 of the specification, please delete the 3rd full paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:**

In such cases, the ratio of ~~other components~~ the vinyl ether group-containing (meth) acrylic ester is preferably not less than 50% by weight, more preferably not less than 70% by weight, still more preferably not less than 80% by weight, particularly preferably not less than 90% by weight, most preferably not less than 95% by weight, relative to the total amount of the composition.

**Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 24 and 25, and replace it with the following paragraph:**

The method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth) acrylic ester is a method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth) acrylic ester represented by the above general formula (1). The above method of producing a vinyl ether group-containing (meth) acrylic ester comprises reacting a hydroxyl group-containing vinyl ether represented by the following general formula (2):



in the formula,  $R^2$  represents an organic residue and  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

with a (meth) acrylic ester represented by the following general formula (3):



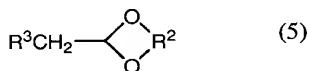
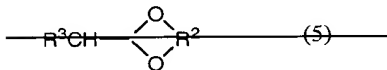
in the formula,  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and  $R^4$  represents an organic residue,

and in which the above hydroxyl group-containing vinyl ether contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a divinyl ether represented by the following general formula (4):



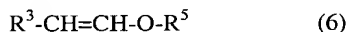
in the formula,  $R^2$  represents an organic residue and the two  $R^3$  groups are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

a 2-substituted-1, 3-dioxo compound represented by the following general formula (5)



in the formula,  $R^2$  represents an organic residue and  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue,

and an unsaturated bond-containing vinyl ether represented by the following general formula (6):



in the formula,  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue;  $R^5$  represents an organic residue containing an unsaturated bond represented by  $-CR^6=CR^7-$ ; and  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or an organic residue. In the present specification, such production method is referred to as the production method (a).

**At page 76, please delete the 1st full paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114  
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/982,861  
Attorney Docket No.: Q66372

The ~~molecular oxygen-nitrogen monoxide gas~~ concentration in the gaseous phase during reaction was 0.1 to 8% by volume.